

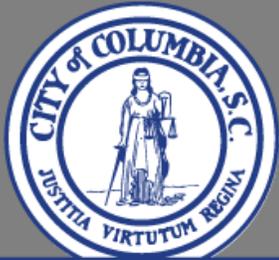


**TERESA WILSON**  
CITY MANAGER

# City Manager's Spotlight



The City Manager's Spotlight provides details about what is happening in the City of Columbia in an effort to keep citizens informed about City operations. The City Manager's Spotlight on February 2015 reflects on the City's Sewer Investment, CPD 2015-2019 Strategic plan, Palmetto Center for Women's Twin Award, Together We Can Read Initiative, Black History Month Program and more.



**We Are Columbia**

**FEBRUARY  
2015**

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## **PALMETTO CENTER FOR WOMEN HONORS CITY MANAGER WILSON AT 35TH ANNUAL TWIN AWARDS**



The Palmetto Center for Women's TWIN Awards honors distinguished women whose outstanding achievements mark them as leaders and role models in business and in the community. Since the inception of the TWIN Awards in 1980, over 500 businesswomen who have made outstanding contributions to their professions and their communities have been honored.

In addition to individual TWIN honors, PCW presented Women in Philanthropy with the Palmetto Center for Women Award. The award is the highest honor

that PCW awards annually and is awarded to an organization in the Midlands that has shown exceptional contributions in supporting and improving the lives of women.

With more than 300 active members, Women in Philanthropy promotes the idea that every woman can and must be a change-agent if the challenges facing women and children are going to be addressed. Through social events, such as Power of the Purse, and educational activities, Women in Philanthropy offers investors a variety of ways to stay involved throughout the year with numerous networking and personal development opportunities.

Palmetto Center for Women's (PCW) annual TWIN Awards were held on Thursday, Feb. 5, 2015. Proceeds from this year's TWIN Awards will help fund Palmetto Center for Women's outreach programs and services including workforce readiness programs at Transitions.



### CITY MANAGER WILSON PARTICIPATED IN 2015 TOGETHER WE CAN READ INITIATIVE

The City of Columbia and Richland School District One held their seventh annual “Together We Can Read” reading blitz on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015 at 9 a.m. All third grade classes across Richland School District One participated.

“Together We Can Read” is a reading day program that encourages children to read and brings community leaders into the classrooms. More than one hundred community leaders from across Columbia read to 2,000 third-grade students.

Studies show that children who do not read proficiently by the end of third grade are more likely to drop out of school. Councilwoman Tameika Isaac Devine spearheaded the “Together We Can Read” initiative seven years ago after reading to a classroom of students with a group of other local leaders.

This year’s book was “First, You Explore: The Story of the Young Charles Townes” written by Rachel Haynie and illustrated by Trahern Cook. For more information about Together We Can Read, please [Download the 2015 TWCR Newsletter](#).



City Manager Teresa Wilson joined by students at H. B. Rhame Elementary School.



City Manager Wilson speaks with citizens from District 3 and 4 during Community Forum.

### COMMUNITY FORUM FEATURED CITY MANAGER WILSON

City Manager Teresa Wilson was a featured guest at the Community Forum hosted by Councilwoman Leona Plough and Councilman Moe Baddourah on February 5 at Heathwood Park for citizens in their districts.

City Manager Wilson lead a discussion on various aspects of operations at the City of Columbia. Police Chief William Holbrook and City Attorney Teresa Knox were also in attendance to provide updates to the community.

### CITY OF COLUMBIA RECOGNIZED 2015 MISS SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL AMERICA

The City of Columbia presented the 2015 Miss South Carolina High School America, Miss Carlisle Carrington Cooper, with a certificate of achievement at the Feb. 10 council meeting.

Miss Cooper is the daughter of Drs. Noble and Traci Cooper and a sophomore at Blythewood High School. Miss Cooper’s pageant platform, “Carlisle’s Create A Smile – Dental Health Campaign,” is designed to educate children about taking proper care of their teeth. The program provides children with tooth brushes, floss, toothpaste, dental care education and proper brushing and flossing techniques creating smiles “fit for a queen or king”.

The Miss High School America Pageant competition exists for the purpose of providing personal and professional opportunities for high school girls. It is the pageant system’s goal to provide outstanding high school girls the opportunity to compete in a pageant system that has the highest of moral values.



City Council, City Manager Wilson and 2015 Miss South Carolina High School America Carlisle Cooper.

**\$29M OF CITY'S SEWER INVESTMENT CORRECTING ALMOST TWO-THIRDS OF 2014 SPILLS**

"Nobody likes to see those numbers, that's why we are diligently working on projects and processes to curb the number and especially the volume of spills" says Bill Davis, Wastewater Engineer for the City of Columbia in response to a recent report by the Congaree Riverkeeper. That report lists the City as the biggest contributor to sewage overflows in the Midlands. "But it's not the complete picture."

"I could say consider how much we treat as the largest plant in the state," says Davis—over 13.3 billion gallons each year. "I could tell you about all the rain events. I could even tell you that comparing our spill numbers to other systems is like comparing apples to oranges," – the City reports every spill where others are only required to report spills over 500 gallons unless they enter a waterway— "but at the end of the day, it's about keeping sewage in our pipes and treating it properly in our plant. That's our goal. That's what we're working so hard to achieve."



The Burnside Gravity Sewer Main project installed over 3 miles of 30" gravity sewer in the Southeast Service Area and removed a problematic pump station from the system.

The City has been working hard to meet that goal. In December 2014, the City completed a \$6.5 M project that removed the problematic Burnside Pump Station from service and replaced it with over 3 miles of new 30" gravity sewer. This pump station was responsible for repeated wet-weather overflows in 2014 before it could be taken offline. Near Lake Katherine, a project scheduled for completion in 2017 and estimated to cost \$8 M will address another problem area. Together, these projects upgrade sites that accounted for over half of the spill volume in the Gills Creek Watershed in 2014.

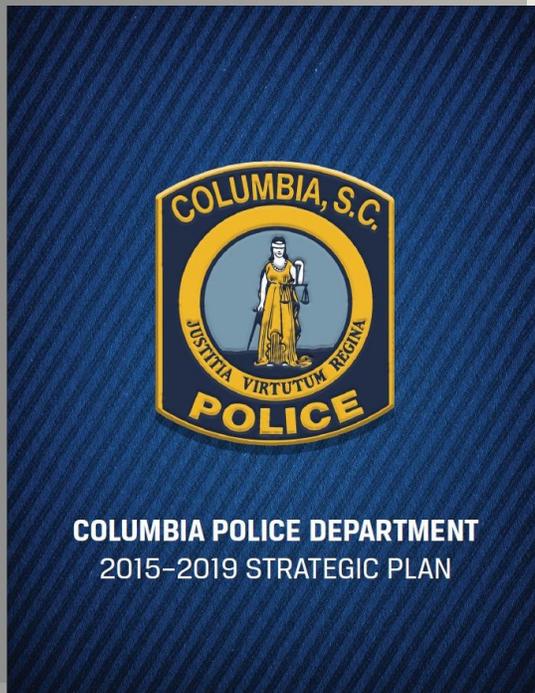
Perhaps most impactful of all will be the work in the Crane Creek area near North Brickyard Rd. Almost 980,000 gallons spilled by the City last year was caused by a 1.3 mile section of 36" pipe that has capacity issues during wet weather. The City is preparing to break ground on an estimated \$15 M project to replace this line with 48" pipe, which will add capacity to the area. While the final line will not be completed until 2017, the City will be putting in a temporary by-pass that will allow the lines in that area to move sewage as if the 48" pipe were complete. This bypass system will be designed to prevent sewer overflows while the new line is under construction. The by-pass is expected to be completed by fall of this year.

Together, the Crane Creek, Burnside and Lake Katherine projects address problems in areas that accounted for almost 2/3rds of the City's total spill volume in 2014. Burnside was completed late last year, Crane Creek bids this week and will be capable of handling wet-weather events by fall, and Lake Katherine is scheduled for completion in 2017. "We're working hard on these critical projects, and we have more improvements planned for the near future as part of our Clean Water 2020 program," says Davis, "but large engineering projects don't happen overnight." From identifying a problem to funding, designing, and building the project that addresses it, large Capital Improvement Projects can take up to four years to complete.

These three projects are not the only ones the City is working on right now. "It's a really big system," says Davis, with over 1,000 miles of pipe serving some 63,000 sewer customers. "We're committed to aggressively and systematically evaluating our entire system and making the repairs and upgrades needed to protect our local waters and the people living near them." Over the next few weeks, the City will be highlighting the over \$100 M in wastewater improvements that have already taken place, its plans for managing the system into the future, and the day-to-day work that goes into taking care of the largest wastewater system in the state. Together, these efforts are improving the City's wastewater system and realizing the Clean Water 2020 mission of "a sustainable, well-maintained, and reliable wastewater system that fully complies with regulatory requirements."

To learn more about the City of Columbia's Clean Water 2020 program, visit [www.cleanwater2020.com](http://www.cleanwater2020.com).

## COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES 2015-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN



Columbia Police Chief William Holbrook announced the completion of the Columbia Police Department's 5 year Strategic Plan. The CPD 2015-2019 Strategic Plan sets forth the direction of the Police Department for the next five (5) years. Included in the plan is an outline of some of the challenges and opportunities currently before the department. The goals outlined in the plan are focused on four key areas:

- Staffing and Facilities
- Professional Development
- Policing
- Equipment and Technology

The goals and strategies outlined in the Strategic Plan will provide the direction and support for the necessary growth and advancement of the Columbia Police Department.

For more information, [download](#) the CPD 2015-2019 Strategic Plan or visit [ColumbiaPD.net](http://ColumbiaPD.net).

## CHIEF HOLBROOK PROMOTES FOUR TO HIGH RANKING POSITIONS

Columbia Police Chief Skip Holbrook proudly announced four significant promotions at the Columbia Police Department – a Major and three Captains. This occasion marked the Chief's second promotional ceremony since his tenure began at CPD. The promotional ceremony at CPD Headquarters on February 11 signifies a positive push forward in the life of the Department, most notably enhancing the level of expertise among the officer ranks.

In particular, Dana Oree, a 19-year-veteran of CPD has been promoted to the rank of Major. Oree will command CPD Operations while continuing to lead the Criminal Investigations Division; which is comprised of more than 80 sworn and civilian personnel who are responsible for the day-to-day investigative functions for the department.

Additionally, the following Lieutenants have been promoted to the rank of Captain:

George Drafts | Christopher Roberts | Joseph Rowson

Captain Drafts is a 24-year veteran of the Columbia Police Department. Captain Drafts will oversee the Professional Standards Division which consists of Internal Affairs, and Policy and Procedure Management. Drafts was previously the Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigations Division, overseeing the Special Victims Unit, Crisis Negotiation Team, Organized Crime and Narcotics, Gang Task Force Unit, Drug Suppression Team, and Federal Task Force Officers.

Captain Chris Roberts is a 17-year veteran of the Columbia Police Department. His new promotion will make him the South Region Commander which is comprised of four squads and two specialized squads. The patrol aspect provides year round, 24 - hour uniformed patrol service, working rotating shifts for residents and businesses in the region. The specialized squads include the Pro-Active Community Enforcement Team (PACE) and the Five Points Team.

Captain Joseph Rowson is a 23-year veteran of the Columbia Police Department and will be assigned to the Administrative Bureau - Special Projects. Captain Rowson began his law enforcement career with the Columbia Police Department in 1991. His undergraduate studies were honed at Midlands Technical College where he was educated in architectural engineering. He also studied Mechanical Engineering from the University of South Carolina.



**CITY MANAGER TERESA WILSON SELECTED AS ONE OF THE "TOP 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE IN THE MIDLANDS"**

City Manager Teresa Wilson has been selected as one of the "Top 50 Most Influential People in the Midlands" in the most recent edition of Columbia Business Monthly magazine. The highly acclaimed list has profiles of the best and brightest leaders in 2014 in the areas of business, government, nonprofits, the arts and health care.

Teresa Wilson  
Columbia City  
Manager

Wilson spent much of 2014 stabilizing the police department, which in recent years had suffered through a corruption investigation, the embarrassing antics of the interim police chief, and the depletion of the force. She has implemented raises all around, and better public safety.

Columbia Business Monthly  
50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE 2014

City Manager Teresa Wilson has been recognized as one of the 50 Most Influential People in the Midlands. Click [HERE](#) to view the article.

**ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH WITH PROGRAM FEATURING CITY MANAGER WILSON**

On Monday, February 9, 2015, City Manager Teresa Wilson presented inspiring stories about local and national African American leaders to the students of St. Peter's Catholic school.

She spoke about Black History Month being an opportunity to learn and reflect on many of the contributions and accomplishments of African American leaders in history and current role models.



Please do not hesitate to contact me with your concerns, suggestions and hopes for our City. I take pleasure in my service to each of you!

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